

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,260
Amendment Accompanying RCE
Reply to OA of January 6, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A polyester resin composition containing a thermoplastic polyester resin and layered phyllosilicate ~~without a silane compound~~ consisting of untreated phyllosilicate,

wherein said layered phyllosilicate in said resin composition satisfies at least one of the following conditions (a) to (c):

(a) ratio of layered phyllosilicate having equivalent area circle diameter [D] of at most 3,000 Å is at least 20%;

(b) a mean value of equivalent area circle diameter [D] is at most 5000 Å;

(c) the number of particles [N] per unit ratio of layered phyllosilicate present in 100 μm² of a resin composition is at least 30.

Claim 2 (Original): The polyester resin composition of claim 1, wherein the layered phyllosilicate in the resin composition satisfies at least one of the following conditions (d) to (f):

(d) average aspect ratio (ratio of layer length/layer thickness) is 10 to 300;

(e) the maximum layer thickness is at most 2,000 Å;

(f) average layer thickness is at most 500 Å.

Claim 3 (Original): The polyester resin composition of claim 2, which satisfies all of said (d) to (f).

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A polyester resin composition containing a thermoplastic polyester resin and layered phyllosilicate ~~without a silane compound~~ consisting of untreated phyllosilicate, wherein at least one of the following conditions (g) to (i) is satisfied:

(g) difference ($\eta_e - 3\eta$) between extensional viscosity η_e and a value three times the sheer viscosity η at 280°C under shear ratio of 100 (1/s) is larger than 300 Pa·s;

(h) difference $\Delta\eta_e$ between η_e under shear rate of 100 (1/s) and η_e under shear rate of 1,000 (1/s) at 280°C is at least 500 Pa·s;

(i) product $J_{eo}\eta_o$ of equilibrium compliance J_{eo} by zero shear viscosity η_o at 280°C is at least 0.8 second.

Claim 5 (Original): The polyester resin composition containing a thermoplastic polyester resin and layered phyllosilicate of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein at least one of the following conditions (g) to (i) is satisfied:

(g) difference ($\eta_e - 3\eta$) between extensional viscosity η_e and a value three times the sheer viscosity η at 280°C under shear rate of 100 (1/s) is larger than 300 Pa·s;

(h) difference $\Delta\eta_e$ between η_e under shear rate of 100 (1/s) and η_e under shear rate of 1,000 (1/s) at 280°C is at least 500 Pa·s;

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(i) product $J_{eo}\eta_0$ of equilibrium compliance J_{eo} by zero shear viscosity η_0 at 280°C is at least 0.8 second.

Claim 6 (Original): The polyester resin composition of claim 5, which satisfies all of said (g) to (i).

Claim 7 (Original): The polyester resin composition of claim 1, 2 or 3 which contains a fibrous filler and/or a polycarbonate resin.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A process for producing a polyester resin composition containing a thermoplastic polyester resin and layered phyllosilicate ~~without a silane compound~~ consisting of untreated phyllosilicate comprising:

(A) a step for preparing a dispersion of layered phyllosilicate and water containing layered phyllosilicate and water;

(B) a step for mixing a component having low polymerization degree of the thermoplastic polyester resin with said dispersion of layered phyllosilicate and water; and

(C) a step for polymerizing the thermoplastic polyester resin.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The polyester resin composition of claim 1, said layered phyllosilicate comprises a dispersion comprising layered phyllosilicate consisting of untreated phyllosilicate and water.